

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 24, 2006**

Members Present: Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Magner, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Lardizzone, Morris, Newstadt and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Dave Gillan, Ed Pickhaver, Fran Daney, and Frank Davidson (KWVA), William McMullen (AF Sgt. Assoc.), Brenda Dunning (Veterans Home Director of Nursing), and Al Carter (SOS)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Vice Chairman Ennis opened by announcing that Chairman Morris was ill and that he would be conducting the meeting.

Ms. Dunning updated the Commissioners on the progress of the Veterans Home.

Mr. Davidson reported that HB 129 (State Employees' Pension Plan) was shot down again.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,  
SECONDED BY SPITZFADEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Wasson reported that he attended the Northern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting and the Northern Cemetery is in need of volunteers. Some of the newly replaced plates that are in direct sunlight have started to fade and will be replaced.

### **COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Harden reported that arrangements are set-up for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Bridge.

### **FINANCE AND LOGISTICS**

No report.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Commissioner Carroll reported the amount in the Veterans Home Fund as of October 23, 2006 is \$68,726 and the Friends of the Veterans Home Fund is \$170,475. He explained that the Friends of the Veterans Home Fund is run by a professional fundraiser and there is a DVD currently in the process of

being produced and will be mailed out to everyone on the Centurion mailing list. He announced that the next meeting for the Steering Committee will be at the Veterans Home Site on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, 2:00 PM. The pre-admissions brochure is near completion and will be ready to go to the printers shortly. He mentioned that he had a list of items and services that the VA needs donated. Ms. Dunning reported that they are still in the process of establishing positions for the Veterans Home and conducting interviews. This week they will conduct the final interviews for the Administrator II position. She also indicated that they will not be hiring for the frontline care until after the first of the year. She made it clear that just giving her the names of persons interested in job positions is not enough; the individuals who are interested in the positions will have to submit an application. She informed the Commissioners that they have been attending job fairs and been in contact with several colleges in reference to nursing positions.

## **PERSONNEL**

No report.

## **MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS**

Commissioner Carroll reported that he and some of the other Commissioners have been contacted by a freelance writer from the News Journal who wants to put together an article on memorials throughout the state and would like to have it ready for Veterans Day. Mr. Carter questioned if there was an official list of memorials and actions associated with State monuments. Mr. Davila gave an update on the status of state memorials, current legislative funds, and activities associated with the memorials.

## **HOME DEDICATION**

Commissioner Harden announced that everything is on schedule and on time. Mr. Davila is working with the local Wal-Mart to secure additional parking. Commissioner Carroll reported that Delaware Military Academy will supply 10 to 12 young cadets to act as ushers. The VA Director, Mr. Citron, has offered the VA bus for services if needed. There was discussion about possible plans for parking and moving guests.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Commissioner Endres reported that there has been some mix up about the proper name for the Veterans Home; some individuals have been calling it a Veterans Hospital. Mr. Davila felt that if we keep referring to the Home as a long-term care facility then that will be how it is known.

## **BY-LAWS**

Vice Chairman Ennis announced that they will be having a By-laws meeting prior to the next scheduled Commission meeting and asked that everyone review the By-laws and see if there are any recommendations for change.

## **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Thompson reported that they are in a holding pattern until Chairman Morris has completed some of the projects that he is working on.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Their National Convention will be held in November in Washington, DC.

Harden (WAVES) – Their organization met on September 30, 2006, and she briefed them on the Veterans Day and Dedication Ceremonies. She is working on the “Salute to Hospitalized Veterans” at the VA Hospital.

Webb (VVA) – He represented the VVA and Commission at the funeral of a cadet from the Military Academy. He announced that he has moved and has a new address.

Kitson (VFW) – The Red, White and Blue Gala was held on October 7, 2006, and have raised about \$33,000, but they still need to beat \$50,105.05. The VFW Military Order of the Cootie Tomb Trek will be held on November 3-5, 2006, in Washington, DC. Some of the VFW posts will be helping out on Elections day, November 7, 2006. The VVA chapter in Georgetown will be doing some stuff on Returns Day.

Ennis (KWVA) – Reported on the KWVA National convention with the assistance of Mr. Gillan. Mr. Gillan reported that their Chapter 2 made donations of \$1,000 to the Family Emergency Fund for the National Guard and also \$1,000 to the Delaware Military Academy for the purchase of air guns for their target team.

Thompson (MCL) – The New Castle Marine Corps League has kicked off their “Toys for Tots” program, Kent and Sussex Counties will kick off their programs on November 1, 2006. The Marine Corps League of Delaware is collecting hard back books for the Veterans Home.

Carroll (MOPH) – Reported that they had their Department Executive meeting on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Contributions were made to the VAVS program, Thanksgiving food drive, and the occupational cooking classes. A plan to display all of the service flags in the lobby of the VA was discussed at the VAVS meeting.

Magner (AMVETS) – AMVETS of Delaware and Post 100 will be supporting the VA Hospital Thanksgiving food drive again this year by providing 100 turkeys (averaging 12 to 14 lbs.). There will be a DEC meeting at the Commission building on November 18, 2006.

Lank (MOWW) – Announced that he attended the Aviation Hall of Fame dinner at the University of Delaware, Clayton Hall, and reported on the event.

Endres (40 & 8) – They presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Cub Scouts in Georgetown for their support on Flag Day at the Veterans Cemetery. He also attended the Blue and Gold VFW banquet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chairman Ennis introduced Mr. Gillan, provided a short synopsis and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Commission. Mr. Gillan expressed his gratitude.

Commissioner Spitzfaden shared an experience he had at the VA with one of the employees and requested that the Commission present her with a Certificate of Appreciation. She also offered to volunteer her services at the Home Dedication.

**MOTION BY SPITZFADEN TO AWARD A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MS. BRAINARD, SECONDED BY LANK, MOTION CARRIED.**

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Davila announced that the Department of State Budget Hearing will be held on November 2, 2006, 1:30 PM at the Tatnall Building. He also reported that he was notified by the National Cemetery Administration that our Cemeteries are 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of interments and the Northern Cemetery is rated as 11<sup>th</sup> busiest in the country.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:                      NOVEMBER 28, 2006 (11:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:    Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**